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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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American Journal of Homeopathy.

NEW-YORK, APRIL, 1851.

EVIDENCES OF THE TRUTH OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC LAW.

By C. B. KER, M. D., EDIN.

(Concluded.)

Arsenic in Skin Diseases.

"Dr. Sweich has prescribed arsenic with great success in various cases of furunculus, and has found the cure very durable. . . . Acne simplex, in which the knotty pustular appearance of the eruption gives it the character of a miniature furuncle, and which is often so obstinate, yields as readily to the arsenic."—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* ii, 554.

We have already seen that arsenic produces a similar state of the skin when taken by a person in health.

Quinine in Insanity.

"M. Piorry has of late prescribed large doses of quinine in certain cases of insanity, with speedy and good effect. They have been especially cases in which the insanity

has seemed to have been connected with certain changes of the functions of the organs of sense—especially of hearing; or, in the case of hypochondriasis, with certain abdominal sensations. Periodicity is a characteristic in many of these cases, just as it is in other affections of the nervous system; and hence the utility of the quinine in such."—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* ii, 554.

China produces these symptoms:

"Fears and apprehensions; great, insupportable anguish; he wants to destroy himself, but has not courage enough to do it; he is beside himself, and tosses about in his bed in despair; indifference and apathy; taciturnity; he despises everything; vehemence to such a degree that he would like to stab people; fitful mood; nervous irritation, attended with depression of spirits, and intolerance of noise, or of anything which affects the senses; pressure, with heaviness in the whole abdomen."

Belladonna in Enuresis.

Belladonna has been used very successfully by M. Trousseau and M. Bretonneau in enuresis.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* iii, 280.

The proving of Belladonna has among its other effects:

"Inability to retain the urine; discharge of urine in the day-time while in a deep sleep; enuresis at night, frequent and copious emission of urine."

Lobelia Inflata in Asthma of Children.

"A child, aged one and a half year, had been seized daily, at mid-day, for three months, with asthmatic paroxysms of difficulty of breathing, terminating in cough without expectoration. An intermittent fever prevailing in the vicinity, the author supposed that the disease might partake of its nature, and administered quinine with *hyoscyamus*, &c., as well as external derivatives; but without any avail. The *tinct. lobel. infl.* (15 drops every three hours) was then given in weak tea, and by the third day the paroxysms had become much diminished in intensity and duration, and in fourteen days no traces of the affection remained, the child continuing quite well when seen a year and a half afterwards."—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* iii, 533.

The following are among the symptoms produced by the *lobelia inflata* :

"Titillation in the larynx, with frequent, short, dry cough; a general tightness of the chest, with short and somewhat laborious breathing; oppression of the chest; oppression of breathing; acceleration of breathing; with the feeling as if it were insufficient, and therefore required from time to time a deeper inspiration: short inspiration, slow expiration; paroxysmal asthma; pain under the middle of the sternum."

Chloride of Gold in Lupus.

M. Chavannes has made use of the *Chloride of Gold* in lupus, and with much success.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* iii, 538.

Aurum muriaticum has the following pathogenetic effects:

"Whitish scurfs falling off after three or four days; intolerable itching, and appearance of an herpetic exanthema forming scurf very speedily; condilomata."

Nitrate of Silver in Purulent Ophthalmia.

In the purulent ophthalmia of infants, Dr. Mildner administers the *nitrate of silver*, and with much success.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* iii, 540.

This medicine has these symptoms:

"Heat and pain in the ball of the eye when moving or touching it; the conjunctiva bulbi and palpebrarum looked inflamed and puckered; nightly agglutination of the right eye; the eyes are filled with mucus; the canthi are as red as blood; the caruncula lachrymalis is swollen; clusters of intensely red vessels extend from the inner canthus to the cornea; mucus in the eyes drying up the lashes and forming scurfs."

Subnitrate of Bismuth in Gastro-Intestinal Affections.

The *subnitrate of bismuth* is strongly recommended by M. Monnerat in gastro-intestinal affections, such as diarrhoea, cholera, gastralgia, &c. as in these disorders he has found it of great service.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* iv, 297.

Bismuth produces the following symptoms:

"Watery diarrhoea; pinching pain in the abdomen, with rumbling and urging to stool; pressure in the stomach, especially after a meal: burning in the stomach; inclination to vomit, and actual vomiting; repeated, easy vomiting of bile; vomiting and diarrhoea; violent, convulsive gurgling, and inexpressible pain in the stomach; oppression of the stomach, and colicky pains, with emission of a quantity of wind from the stomach, and loose bilious stools."

Sulphuric Acid in Hiccough.

"During a long practice, Dr. Schneider has met with many cases of hiccough, occurring

in both sexes and at different ages, and persisting with such obstinacy as to give rise to great suffering and exhaustion. His sovereign remedy in such cases is one of the preparations of dilute *sulphuric acid*, which acts with great promptitude."—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* v, 274.

Sulphuric acid has among its pathogenetic effects: "Hiccough."

Aconite and Ipecacuanha in Dysentery.

M. Marbot, a French naval surgeon, not succeeding in checking an epidemic dysentery by the usual remedies, has recourse to *aconite*. The success he meets with surprises him. The type of the dysentery was inflammatory. The chief symptoms were—intense fever; hard, contracted, rapid pulse; violent headache; dry and bitter mouth; tenderness of the abdomen; colic; distressing pulsation in the right hypochondrium, and tenesmus. After the administration of the *aconite*, the feverish symptoms subsided in less than a day, and the blood disappeared from the stools in a few hours. But M. Marbot found that, though *aconite* was of great service, it was not sufficient to complete the cure. The fever, the hæmorrhagic discharges from the bowels, and the abdominal tenderness were all relieved, but the stools continued nearly as frequent as before. *Ipecacuanha* was then tried, and succeeded in completing the cure, though it had been found inefficacious when given before the *aconite* was tried.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.* v, 275.

The proving of *aconite* shows the following symptoms:

"Excessive heat of the whole body with thirst; jerking, full, strong, feverish pulse; violent headache; dryness of the mouth and tongue; bitter taste; the abdomen is sensitive to the touch; colicky pains in the abdomen; frequent, loose stools, with tenesmus."

And *ipecacuanha* has these symptoms:

"Diarrhœic stools, having the appearance of being fermented; stool covered with red, bloody mucus; bloody stools; stinging, cutting, burning pain in the margin of the anus."

Tartar Emetic in Asthma.

Dr. Itzingsohn, of Neudamm, describes several cases of *idiosyncratic asthma* in the *Pr. Ver. Ztg.* 30, 1849. His first patient was a healthy shopkeeper, 40 years of age, who, as often as he had occasion to handle freshly ground coffee, was immediately seized with oppression at the chest, accompanied with sense of constriction extending to the throat, and soon followed by loud râles heard over the whole breast—short, painful cough, and scanty, tough expectoration. Bloodletting, sinapisms, &c. had been used by different physicians without benefit. Itzingsohn found *tartar emetic* and *asafoetida* most useful.—*Monthly Journ. of Med. Science*, cxii, 365.

That *tartar emetic* produces analogous symptoms may be seen above.

Belladonna in Epilepsy.

A. M. Dobreyne in many cases of *epilepsy*, which he has treated, found *belladonna* more useful than any other medicine.—*Monthly Journ. of Med. Science*, Feb. 1850.

The following are some of the pathogenetic effects of *Belladonna*:

"Spasms, startings, and convulsions of the limbs; with weariness and anxiety; with screams and loss of consciousness; with contortion of the eyes; with extension of the limbs, or violent distortion of the muscles; tetanic spasms; paroxysms of stiffness and immobility of all the limbs, or of a single limb only; epileptic spasms; trembling of the limbs; weariness; laziness and indisposition to work or stir; great general debility."

Colchicum in Gout.

In a paper read before the Westminster Medical Society, by Dr. Garrod, he says: "*Colchicum* possesses an almost magic power in relieving gout." This has been long known, and *colchicum* is therefore one of the chief, if not the chief remedy made use of in the treatment of gout.—*Medical Times*, vol. xxi, 207.

Colchicum produces the following symptoms:

"Boring stitches over the nail of the right big toe, or lacerations in the ball. Tingling in the right big toe, as if it would go to sleep. Pain in the left big toe, as if the nail would grow into the flesh. Drawing with pressure in the toes. Tearing in the feet, particularly in the heel, the left tarsus, the dorsa of the feet, and the left sole. Edematous swelling of the legs and feet. The pains are worst from evening till morning; in the evening they are frequently so excessive that they would almost drive one mad. Pulse large, full and hard. Dry heat of the skin. Frequent shiverings along the back."

Opium in Delirium Tremens.

At another meeting of the Westminster Medical Society, in a discussion which followed the reading of a paper on *Delirium Tremens*, by Dr. James Bird, it was given as their opinions by Dr. Saow and Dr. Lankester, that *opium* was of more service in that disease than any other remedy.—*Medical Times*, vol. xxi, p. 225.

Opium produces symptoms very similar to those of *Delirium Tremens*:

"Furious delirium; visions; frightful fancies; complete loss of consciousness and sensation; stupefaction of the senses; complete loss of memory; painful headache; congestion of the blood to the head; throbbing of the arteries of the head; staring and glistening eyes; red, bloated, swollen face; violent,

quick, hard pulse, with heavy, impeded respiration."

Phosphorus in Diseases of the Skin.

Dr. Burgess, in a work which he has published on diseases of the skin, thus recommends a medicine which he has found of great service.—"There is a remedy which exercises a powerful influence on the cutaneous exhalents, and which I can specially recommend in the treatment of the more rebellious forms of diseases of the skin—namely, *Phosphorus*. It is one of the most valuable medicinal agents we possess in those inveterate cutaneous diseases—leprosy, proriasis, lupus, in which the skin seems to adapt itself to the morbid condition, which it retains with singular tenacity against all the usual methods of treatment."—*Eruptions on the Face, Head and Hands, &c.*, by T. H. Burgess, M.D., pp. 16, 17.

Phosphorus produces the following symptoms:

"Sore, excoriated spots on the skin, with redness, or smarting and stinging pain. Scaling off of the epidermis; round herpetic spots over the whole body; burning itching over the whole body."

Sabina in Abortion and Uterine Diseases.

"When the disposition to abortion is dependent upon a diminished vitality of the uterine system or functional weakness of its nutritive vessels, Dr. Metsch says that medicines of a stimulant and strengthening description, acting powerfully on the circulation of the organ, are indicated, and of all such substances *savine* is that which is most to be relied upon for this end." "The *savine* has also been found useful in various chronic diseases of the female genital organs, connected with vascular and secretory torpor, especially in passive hæmorrhages and leucorrhæa. In the same way it is of good service, conjoined with mechanical means, in treating prolapsus uteri consequent on frequent or difficult labors and abortions." "If the disposition to abortion depends upon an augmented irritability and contractility (a condition not always opposed to the first named), the *savine* does not alone suffice, but a medicine is required that exerts a special effect in regularising uterine irritability, the *ergot of rye*, which should be added to the *savine* infusion in the proportion of one to two, when former miscarriages have been induced by the primary contraction of the womb without preliminary hæmorrhage."

Sabina acts powerfully on the uterus, and produces a train of symptoms very similar to those that characterize abortions and the predisposition to the disease, as will be seen from the following extracts from the pathogenetic effects of that medicine:

"Drawing pressure in the hypogastrium towards the genital organs, as if the menses would make their appearance. Severe stitches

in the vagina, deep, from before backwards. The menses appear without pain, but are three or four times more profuse than usual; she passed clots of blood after rising. The os tincæ is open, the blood looks red, the discharge being profuse and at intervals, especially during motion. Violent menstruation, twenty-six hours after the regular menses, with violent colic and labor pains; the blood was partly fluid, partly lumpy. Hæmorrhage from the uterus at the period of the menses. Miscarriage; metrorrhagia. Leucorrhœa, with itching of the pudendum."

The following are also symptoms produced by *secale cornutum*:

"The menses are too profuse; congestion of blood to the uterus. Metrorrhagia. Excessive uterine contractions, so that the uterus seemed to burst. All the symptoms are worse previous to the menses."

WATERVILLE, Feb. 18th, 1851.

DR. KIRBY,

Dear sir:—In compliance with a resolution passed at the second annual meeting of the Homœopathic Society of Central New-York, I herewith transmit to you a summary of its proceedings for publication in your Journal.

It gives me much pleasure to be able to inform you that the Society is in a very flourishing condition, and that the Homœopathic practice is steadily and permanently advancing in Central New-York.

The Society convened at the National Hotel in the city of Utica, January 14th, 1851, at 11 o'clock, A. M. The President, I. L. Kellogg, M. D., in the chair, and E. A. Munger, M. D., Secretary.

E. A. Potter, M. D., of Oswego, and H. K. Ward, M. D., of Oriskany Falls, were duly proposed by the censors and elected members of the society.

The committee appointed at a previous meeting to report on the remedial powers of water, not being prepared to make a report, was continued and required to report at the next meeting of the society.

Reports on provings of *Apis Mel*, were then read, after which it was resolved, that an engrossing committee of three be appointed to receive reports of provings of *Apis Mels*, and make a full report to the society at its next meeting. Drs. Bishop, Humphrey, and Munger were appointed said committee.

Reports of cases and their treatment were

then made by most of the members present, after which the society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, whereupon the following persons were duly elected.

Pres't, Lyman Clary, M. D., of Syracuse.
V. Pres't, Amherst Childs, M. D., of Seneca Falls.

Cor. Sec'y, Edward T. Richardson, M. D., of Syracuse, E. A. Munger, M. D., of Waterville. Censors, Drs. Bailey, Wells, Potter, Stewart and Kellogg.

Resolved, That the next meeting of the society be held in the city of Syracuse, on the first Tuesday in June next.

Adjourned to meet at the Common Council room, at 7 o'clock, P. M., to hear the address of the President, Dr. I. L. Kellogg.

Society met at the Common Council room agreeable to adjournment, and was called to order by the President Dr. Clary. Dr. Kellogg then delivered an able and interesting address, after which a few reports of cases were made and the following resolutions adopted:

Resolved, That the committee appointed to investigate the power of high potencies to antidote low ones of the same drug be continued, and be required to report at our next meeting.

Resolved, That each member be required to make a written report at our next meeting of a case of cure where but a simple remedy was used.

Resolved, That each member be called upon at the next meeting of the society, to report one or more cases of interest which may have occurred in his practice. Adj'd.

LYMAN CLARY, M. D., Pres't.

E. A. MUNGER, M. D., Rec. Sec'y.

I send below a list of members which you will do as you please about publishing.

Drs. I. L. Kellogg, Silas Bailey, N. Stebbins, L. B. Wells, I. D. Loomis, Daniel Barker, I. C. Raymond, Jeremiah Green, H. K. Foote, Geo. F. Foote, S. O. Scudder, Stillman Spooner, Wm. R. Browne, C. W. Boyce, R. C. Dunham, S. W. Stewart, Leverest Bishop, E. A. Munger, Edward F. Richardson, D. S. Kimball, F. Humphreys, I. M. Peak, Fordyce Rice, L. B. Hall, Amherst Childs, Stephen Seward, E. A. Potter, Lyman Clary, Wm. H. Hoyt, H. R. Ward.

SMITHVILLE, Jeff. Co., N. Y., Feb. 2d, 1851.

DR. S. R. KIRBY,

Dear sir:—Please allow me, an entire stranger to you personally, to tax your time long enough to read a line or two from one who is a novice in the doctrine of "*similia similibus curantur*;" one who had, till about a year since, been a practitioner under the old system or doctrine of "*contraria contrariis curantur*," for nearly thirty years.

I had long been perplexed and out of patience with the insufficiency and uncertainty of the old school practice, and had occasionally glanced at the Homœopathic system, but not sufficiently to acquire the requisite confidence in it to put it to the test. About the time above mentioned, my wife* had a severe attack of acute dysentery, as severe as any case I ever saw. I treated her Allopathically for about ten days, with doubtful success, till I exhausted all the ordinary means; the disease becoming more and more alarming all the time. The evacuations were very frequent and attended with the most intense suffering, being wholly muco-sanguineous; the abdominal soreness so great as not to allow the weight of the lightest bed-clothes. In this extremity, when all hope under the present course of treatment was lost, I consulted Dr. Kimball, of Sackets Harbour, who resides five miles from me, who kindly gave me the Homœopathic preparations of *Nux v.*, and *Merc. sol.*, to be given alternately once an hour. I returned home and immediately commenced the new treatment, but not without fears that I was allowing her to die without any rational effort to save her. But to my great astonishment and delight, in three days she was comparatively well. On the third day she had but one evacuation, and that of a healthy character, the pain and soreness all gone, appetite good, and nothing remaining but the debility consequent upon the Allopathic treatment. One fact I may state; about twenty-six years prior to this time, she was bled almost to death, and drenched with salts, &c., to overcome an inflammation, consequent upon a fracture and other injuries of her hip,

* Providentially, I have had one other case of dysentery, one of neuralgia, and one of acute Rheumatism in my own family to treat, all of which recovered sooner and more perfectly, than similar cases under the old system in my hands. These cases nearly surprised and astonished all who witnessed them, and have done much to inspire confidence in the new practice.

occasioned by a fall from a carriage; since which time, she had constantly suffered from an irregular state of the bowels, till subjected to the Homœopathic treatment; but has enjoyed perfect immunity from it since.

I could mention many other cases treated Homœopathically, equally as extraordinary to me as this. I now practice and have done so for a year past, on the new system, in all cases where the patients or friends will allow it. The number, I am happy to say, who strenuously oppose it, becomes less and less, every day. I confidently anticipate the day not far distant, when it will take the place of all other systems of practice. It is certainly gaining ground here and would undoubtedly gain more rapidly were the Homœopaths better qualified to do the system justice.

I am pleased with the American Journal of Homœopathy, shall continue a subscriber to it.

Respectfully yours, &c.

S. SEYMOUR, M. D.

THOUGHTS ON THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

BY D. M. DAKE, M. D., OF PITTSBURGH, PA.

Concluded from Page 156.

Every rational, thinking person, should allow to reason its supremacy, and not be led astray by arguments in favor of any system that is based upon its antiquity, for age can prove the truthfulness of nothing. If it can, then is murder right, for we may go farther back for the date of this practice among men, than we are pointed to by the empty boastings of weak minds for the commencement of the prevailing school of medicine.

We are gravely told by the votaries of this prevailing school, that their system is old, and therefore true. This, with them, is the end of all argument in favor of the aggregated fallacies, whims, absurdities, vagaries, humbugs, and false reasonings of all ages, which now constitute what is proudly termed the "old, settled," and "only rational system of medical science."

It is argued that much of the best talent of every age has been in requisition for three thousand years, in the cultivation of medical science. Admitted; and is it not equally true that much of the best talent has been devoted to the discovery of ways and means to carry out murderous plans? Let the scenes that lately transpired in Boston answer. And, now,

if the argument is worth anything in either case, it bears with equal force upon both modes of practice—only murder is the most thoroughly established, because more than twice as old as medical science.

But let us proceed with our view of the science of disease. Let us consider the claims of a theory of disease, and its consequent treatment, which drew after it many sensible men in our country, but a few years since. This theory was simple, and so was the mode of practice predicated upon it. Heat is life, and cold is death—thus is stated the theory to which I allude. It followed that to ward off death, the heat of the body must be increased. Hence originated the pepper and steam practice, so much ridiculed by the regulars and rejected because of its humble origin. It was elaborated and promulgated by an obscure, uneducated person, by the name of Samuel Thompson, from which his system derived its name, *Thompsonian*.

It may be claimed by the regulars, that they have nothing to do with the pepper and steam practice. If so, we are willing to admit it, for argument's sake. But when we examine and analyze their practice, would not the serious admission of their claims be wrong? Most certainly, for however strongly they protest against the adoption of that theory, we find them using it in practice, which evinces their recognition of it. By those who have arrogated to themselves the name of *regulars*, the cold victims of cholera are filled up with pepper, rubbed with it, surrounded by bottles of hot water and stones; and, in accordance with this theory, (however much they may affect to despise it,) they threw into their unresisting victims numerous quantities of Ether, Brandy and other powerful diffusible stimuli, with the vain hope of keeping the taper of life burning a little longer. What is this but *Thompsonianism*?

Heat is life, and cold is death. The regulars ought to own up, and give Thompson his dues, or we will charge them with stealing his mode of treatment.

Why do the regulars ostensibly reject the theory of Thompson, and at the same time adopt his practice, slightly modified and extended? Is there anything in it more absurdly ridiculous and repugnant to the common sense of mankind, than in the theory which gives to all diseases their origin in impurities of the blood? or the one that ascribes to biliousness, foul stomach and bowels, nearly all diseases, and points out pukings and purging, as the only reliable means of cure, except a few *adjuncts* (or helpers,) to work off the foul matter through the pores of the skin, kidneys, &c., &c.? If the obscure Samuel Thompson had been the great Dr. Hunter, who wrote largely upon the blood, or the famous Dr. Hamilton, who wrote a work exclusively devoted to purgative, entitled "*Hamilton on Purgatives*," his theory and practice would have been adopted by the profession,

openly and boldly, and the sick would have obtained a quick and easy passage to the grave by the aid of pepper and steam, with the glorious satisfaction of having obtained their passport thence at the hands of the "*Regulars*"—who, as it is, adopt his practice to the rejection of his theory, a kind of *medical plagiarism* not exactly peculiar to this case, as will be hereafter shown.

As the case stands, we are disposed to be liberal, at least not too hard on the "*Regulars*," in the admission that *Thompsonianism* is a comparatively harmless, yet disgusting excrescence, standing out upon the rickety and distorted face of their system, indicative of the morbid action within, which sustained its fungus-like growth in the confidence of those who had tried the "*Regulars*," and abandoned them in disgust, without one glimmering ray of hope of aid from the *regular* system. The *Thompsonians* gave them much relief, by vomiting, purging, and strongly forced perspiration, which carried off and forced out the noxious drugs that were constantly stirring up unpleasant feelings, perturbing the fountains of life, and rendering existence a curse. So far it did well; but it attained credit for more, and rose to a degree of popularity scarcely looked for by its votaries, notwithstanding its humble origin.

So it has been with the *water cure*, which has, to a certain extent, been adopted by the "*Regulars*," to whose *system* it sustains the relation of a foul ulcer—a drain upon its impurities.

Again, we find a set of men who discard all science—who claim to know all things by intuition; they go against *diplomas*, believing altogether in *roots and yarbs*—discarding all theories; knowing none, except to "go against minerals," running all over creation in search of something, without any definite object in view. They mix all kinds of *roots and yarbs*, twenty, thirty, and sometimes more, in one dose, without knowing a hundredth part of the medicinal effects of either; and then sell the mixture out as the druggist did a lot of spoiled grease, who sold bear's oil, castor oil, sweet oil, &c., &c., all out of one tub. Such call themselves "*reformed*" doctors, "*vegetable*" doctors, &c., &c.

Towards such our desires are not to be too intolerant; for to them the darkness of the old way had become so thick as to negative its own influence to blind. A reform was desired, and to the best of their abilities they have tried to effect it. By avoiding what they term minerals, in the doses that are usually given, they have avoided an evil, a bitter curse; but their large doses, and their wild, indiscriminate use of vegetable substances and poisons, are scarcely less hurtful. It is well known that the most deadly and suddenly fatal poisons are found in the vegetable kingdom in a natural state; but there is a kind of poetry in the words "*botanical*" or "*vegetable*," that deceives thousands into the belief that any

amount of vegetables, (roots and herbs,) may be swallowed with impunity. This class of doctors have sprung up like a thrifty growth of weeds, for the want of a proper cultivation of the fields of medical science by the regulars, who know how to produce nothing better from the soil.

The Thompsonians, and the root and herb, or reformed doctors, have recently assumed the dignified title of *Eclectics*—have established schools that grant diplomas, and begin to talk about medical learning, liberality, &c. Their creed allows them to cull out and accept what is good from all systems, claiming, of course, the prerogative of judging for themselves what is right and what is wrong, without a knowledge of a single general rule by which to judge of the value of any medicine. They talk largely about rejecting from their practice all minerals, especially mercury and its preparations, calomel, corrosive sublimate, &c., and at the same time make use of mercurial ointments, unconscious of the fact that there is no more speedy and effectual way to saturate and get all the bad effects of mercury, than by rubbing it on the skin!

By this specimen of their powers of discrimination, we may form a tolerable estimate of the perfections or imperfections of medical science, as cultivated, taught and practiced by them. They have in no way altered the course of investigation pursued by the "Regulars" in arriving at the nature of disease, the powers and properties of medicines; nor have they changed the rules by which medicines are to be applied for the cure of disease. They suggest no therapeutic law nor laws. So far as science is concerned, in their study of disease and medicine, it is alike unknown to both. Eclecticism is another distorted face of the "Regular" embodiment of vagaries and humbugs.

All these attempts at reform must prove abortive, because they are nothing but the same old thing in a new dress, made out of their mother's old one. The only real reform that has been made or attempted in the regular school of medicine, stands out, in bold relief, the climax of human folly, the most ridiculous absurdity, and prominent vagary of the present age. This famous reform consists in curing, by giving less medicine, without a change in therapeutic laws. In the line of this reform, the case stands thus: We must cure by physic, but we must not give quite enough to physic our patient; the next case we must cure by an emetic, but we must not give enough to vomit; the next we must cure by starting the perspiration, but we must stop with our doses just short of sweating our patient; the next we must bleed, but we must stop just short of starting the blood; and so on to the end of the chain of curative agents.

Is not this a beautiful reform in the art of

healing? Indeed, it is a proposition at which a fool should blush. As well might one attempt to go west by continuing to walk (though a little slower,) east, as to improve the art of healing, by giving less medicine, until the principles are changed by which those medicines are given. Though no one will doubt that to give less of a hurtful drug is a good thing, who in his right senses will, for one moment, contend, that to injure less, and kill fewer, is a reform, an advance in the art of healing, or doing good!

Any person, of only ordinary perceptive powers, should understand a fact I am about to state, by one glance at the history of medicine, or at medicine as practiced at the present time by the school of medicine, which boasts, as its only defence, of its *great antiquity*—that up to this time all knowledge of medicines and their uses has been gained empirically; each fact connected with the curative process of medicine has been stumbled upon and observed by accident, without a law of cure, without a general principle to guide it to its uses. A given substance is known to vomit—the doctor guesses there is foul matter in the stomach, causing disease; then he supposes that the cure depends upon the removal of the foul matter; "therefore I will give the emetic, and in this way make my medicine subserve my theories of disease, and produce a cure. The whole is guess-work, false premises, reasonings and conclusions, throughout all the writings and practice of the old, *exceedingly antiquated*, and experienced school of medical humbug.

The following sample of learned reasoning is a fair sample, and shows the general woful destitution of clearly observed facts, correct reasoning and deductions throughout all medical "*larnen*." A physician was called to treat a Frenchman for a fever. His patient wanted a dried herring; the Dr. protested and told him that it would kill him, but he got it, eat it and the next day was convalescent. So the learned Dr. wrote quickly down the astonishing fact, that dried herring were a sure cure for such a fever. Shortly after this "*larnen*" was tested on an Englishman, laboring under the same fever. The Dr. told him he must eat a dried herring; the patient demurred, but the Dr. told him it was the only sure cure. He ate it and the next day died; and the Dr. carefully and quickly wrote down his wonderful deduction, from the clearly intelligible facts, that dried herrings were a sure cure for a Frenchman, but sure death for an Englishman! This great *larnen*, of course, became henceforth the rule in practice for those who believed it true. Such is the reasoning of the *antiquated* school—such the certainty of their science, and perfection of their art; and such the value of their long experience, profoundly superficial observations and idiotic reasoning.

A CASE,

RELATED BY DR. WARNER OF BUFFALO, N. Y.

John T. Davison, aged 18 years, of bilious temperament, was attacked about the 1st of September with symptoms of Cholera, for which he was treated after the manner of the old school, which relieved him in the course of 24 hours; he continued to improve for four or five days, when he was able to leave his bed and walk about the deck of the brig. His improvement continued for four or five days when he was attacked with chills, fever, intense headache, pain in the back, diarrhoea, and all the symptoms of continued fever. He was treated by two physicians of the old school for some two weeks, when his friends determined, if practicable, to remove him to this city.

He was accordingly removed from the brig to a steamer, which left the harbor of Chicago on Saturday, Sept. 22d, 1850, and arrived at Buffalo Friday, Sept. 28th at noon, when the writer was called to attend him.

The following were his symptoms on my first visit. Countenance sunken, eyes idiotic, senses dull, tongue dark brown, and perfectly dry and harsh to the feel, like a dried neat's tongue, thirst intense, skin cold, dry and harsh, bowels relaxed, moving about once an hour, the dejections like blue dye covered with froth, pulse one hundred and twenty, small and intermittent, hands and feet cold as those of a corpse, and the skin like wax, when pinched up, would remain fixed. Gave Arsenic, 7th trit., one grain, and in three hours one grain Carbo veg. of the 2d trit., and so continue, alternately.

Saturday, 29th. Has been in a profuse perspiration since last evening, tongue moist and less brown, bowels moved but three times since the first dose of medicine. Continue medicine.

Sunday, 30th. Improved. Tongue moist, skin warm and soft, pulse one hundred and ten, bowels moved but three times in the last twenty-four hours, dejections more consistent and not so dark. Continue medicine.

Wednesday, Oct. 3d. Much the same as on Sunday, only there is more wandering of the mind, but when fairly awake knows his family and answers correctly, bowels not moved for the last 48 hours. Gave Bryonia 6th, and in six hours Rhus rad. to be continued alternately.

Saturday, Oct. 6th. He continued to improve under the Bryonia and Rhus until this morning when his pulse rose from 100 to 120—and without any other positive symptoms for the worse, still he had lost strength, and seemed gradually sinking. Continue Rhus one dose every 12 hours.

Sunday, Oct. 7th. Symptoms much the same as yesterday, less strength, bowels moved to-day, dejections healthy, pulse 120 feeble, some appetite, change evidently near at hand, give no medicine, but left directions to be called if any change happened for the worse.

Monday, Oct. 8th. Was called early this morning to see my patient who was attacked at 4, A. M., with hæmorrhage from the nose, skin and extremities cool, pulse feeble 120, strength rapidly failing, and the odor of the body intolerable. Gave him one grain of Ars. 7th and directed cold water to be applied to the head and neck if the hæmorrhage should increase—half-past one, P. M., I was summoned to the bedside of my patient as he was dying. I found him senseless, bleeding from the nose and mouth, the body covered with vibices, as large in some places as a French crown and the hands and wrists covered also, but much smaller, gave one grain Carbo veg. to be followed in two hours by one grain of Ars., 7th trit.—6, P. M., had had a large motion of the bowels unconsciously, of a mixture of dark tarry matter and black grumous blood, at this time there was an oozing of blood from the vibices on the left hand—directed him to take the Ars. and Carbo as directed at last visit.

Tuesday, Oct. 9th. Improved. Bleeding from nose and mouth ceased at 1, A. M., slept tolerably after that hour, pulse one hundred and ten, full and soft, skin warm, no motion of the bowels since 7 o'clock last evening, odor of the body intolerable. Can be roused so as to know his friends.—Continue medicine.

Wednesday, Oct. 10th. Considerably improved, more easily roused, skin natural, pulse 100 full, bleeding recurred at 12 yesterday (principally from the gums,) ceased at 5 o'clock, P. M., bowels moved once in the last 24 hours more natural.

From this time onward he continued to improve except in two instances, during the next ten days. I then discontinued Ars. and Carb. and in both instances the bleeding recurred within twelve hours, but was promptly arrested by a return to those remedies. They were

continued at longer intervals until Thursday, the 24th October, when I ceased to visit him. And now, Jan. 1851, he is in the enjoyment of good health and has taken no remedy since the date of his discharge.

There are two points in the above case worthy of notice, 1st, The power of those two remedies to sustain the sinking vital power as evinced in their first operation; and secondly, their power to arrest passive hæmorrhage, as is proved by the promptness of their action when the hæmorrhage had recurred from their intermission.

WHY DO ALLOPATHISTS REFUSE TO INVESTIGATE HOMŒOPATHY?

Several times lately, this question has been propounded to us. It is a reasonable inquiry and worthy a fair and candid answer. A large number of Allopathists, probably seven-eighths of the entire school, honestly believe that the Homœopathic practice consists only in the use of small doses of drugs, and that the only difference between the two schools is the quantity of medicine in the doses. Allopathists being controlled by this false assumption, declare, and truly too, that it is absurd to suppose that the doses of drugs prepared by Hahnemann can produce cathartic, emetic, sudorific, anodyne and tonic effects; the absurdity of which, say they, is so obvious to every sane man, that it is the solemn duty of every physician to set his face as a flint against such a monstrous delusion. Therefore, a misunderstanding of the theory of Homœopathy is the chief cause why Allopathists do not investigate that system of medicine.

Many of those who do perceive the wide range of Homœopathy, and who have correct views of her principles, become discouraged on account of the time and labor which are necessarily required for a fair and thorough investigation of her claims. Few, very few physicians will consent to be "educated anew" which must be, in order to understand Homœopathy.

Together with the reasons above stated, there is another which we regret, because it is so degrading to the profession; we refer to a slavish fear which notoriously prevails in the Allopathic school. Independent thinking is not encouraged, and he who indulges himself in the practice of this established personal

right, will be judged guilty of an offence, and if he is likely to have influence in the community he will be denounced for his opinions, unless they tally with those commonly received by that school. Hahnemann's history is an example in point. He dared to doubt the truth of Allopathy, and to propose Homœopathy as the true healing art. He stated distinctly the process by which he was led to reject the one, and adopt the other, and invited and urged his colleagues to repeat his experiments, that each might prove for himself what he asserted was true. Do as I did, be careful and you will get my results, was his proclamation to the medical profession. He was regularly and thoroughly educated in medicine, his learning, intelligence, honesty, and zeal for truth, were not doubted by those who knew him; but so soon as he published in Hufeland's Journal his doctrines, as usual a cry was raised against him, and all manner of evil said of him. He challenged the world to test his principles, and here and there one had the courage and honesty to do so, and in every instance the experiments resulted in the addition of a disciple to the illustrious founder of Homœopathy. What did the Allopathic school do? It denounced Hahnemann a *quack*, and his system *quackery*; although there was an absence of an essential property of quackery, which is *secrecy*. He revealed everything, and did not use his knowledge for his own selfish purposes which he could have done. As Homœopathy worked wonders among the sick, the excitement in the opposition became furious, the Allopathic school in Europe and in this country combined, and formed naturally enough, in view of its heathen paternity, a sort of goddess of vengeance, and that deity now presides over that school and will not permit its members to investigate Homœopathy.

There is another view to be taken of that school, which helps to answer the question at the head of this article. That school has an oligarchical government, and all its members are virtually regarded as "*obscure*," and not to be seen or heard except the few in whose hands the supreme power is placed. Therefore, it is, that all Homœopaths are represented as "*obscure individuals*," of no account, and were not so when under the oligarchy; and having dared to think and act for themselves, they give evidence of weakness and ignorance,

and are traitors to the government established three thousand years ago by our heathen father Æsculapius. This is not fiction, it is a reality. For these reasons Allopathists refuse to investigate Homœopathy.

CAZENOVIA, New-York, Sept. 12th, 1850.

DR. KIRBY,

Dear sir :—Enclosed is one dollar, the subscription for the "A. J. of Homœopathy" for the current year.

I am pleased with the Journal and shall use my influence to extend its circulation as I have heretofore done.

I have just treated a case of disease which may perhaps be worth recording in your Journal.

I was requested to visit a child which had been seized suddenly with convulsions about ten o'clock of the 10th inst. I saw it about an hour after the attack. The spasms had nearly subsided and the child was in a state of unconsciousness. The eyes both open and turned to the left side in a fixed condition. The right arm and leg perfectly paralytic, the left hand in constant motion attempting to be thrust into the mouth at times, and then the fingers would be placed with their ends on the upper lip, with movements of the lips as if to whistle. Extremities cool, pulse full and rather slow, more natural for a child of her age, (2 years.)

I gave her one globule of Acon., of the 3d potency, dissolved in a tea-spoonful of water, and remained with the patient about half an hour. The extremities soon became warmer and the pulse faster, and less full, and the child closed its eyes and fell asleep. I left, and the next day I was informed by the father that she was running about the house as usual.

F. RICE, M. D.

We are having more fevers and dysentery in this section at this time, though not general or alarming, all easily cured by Homœopathy.

MT. CLEMENS, Michigan, Oct. 3d, 1850.

DR. KIRBY,

Respected sir :—Month after month the Journal makes its appearance, and it is ever hailed with delight, for I think I am able to

receive much instruction as well as profitable amusement from its perusal. It appears to me to be just the work to advance the interests of our cause, and so long as the true principles of our science are sustained by it, I deem it the duty of every Homœopath to give it a liberal support.

The principles of Homœopathy are but faintly understood as yet by this community as a whole, yet since I commenced business here, (the first of August, 1849,) great advancement has been made in their dissemination, and strong inroads made upon the ranks of Allopathic friends, who have not failed to meet Homœopathy with the same arguments which I believe they generally employ; to wit, derision, slander and a personal abuse of its advocates. Yet it is certainly a pleasure to see truth triumph, and the weapons of its adversaries either falling powerless to the ground or recoiling back upon themselves, thus defeating the very object they were intended to sustain. The friends of Homœopathy here, as I may say generally wherever I am acquainted with its history, are to be numbered from among the first class of the community, from among our most intelligent and influential citizens, and, contrary to the wishes and prophecies of our adversaries are continually increasing, thus affording the most satisfactory proof of the truth and successful operation of our excellent system.

But pardon the liberty which I have taken in thus intruding upon your notice.

Enclosed I send you one dollar, the amount of my subscription. Desiring that ample success may attend the circulation of the American Journal of Homœopathy.

I am sir, yours,

Respectfully,

S. I. FULTON, M. D.

THE HAHNEMANN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

A stated meeting of this institution was held on Wednesday evening, March 5th, at its room, 488 Broadway.

Dr. Joseph T. Curtis, Vice-President, presided.

An interesting discussion sprung up on the subject of smallpox. Dr. Kirby stated that he had, since the last meeting, employed

Thuja in a case of *distinct* smallpox, with, what seemed to him, remarkable effect, as the patient received prompt relief from distressing symptoms of the throat, head and eyes, after the eruption had fully appeared. He could not give the details of the case, as the notes he made were imperfect; and he would simply ask the attention of the Academy to that drug in that disease. Dr. Hempel doubted if *Thuja* was homœopathic to smallpox, under any circumstances. It is his opinion, that in that disease the pathogenesis of the drug should correspond to the symptoms of the fever which precede the eruption, which *Thuja* did not. *Mercury*, said Dr. H., is a specific for *Syphilis* in all its stages. That drug that is homœopathic to a disease at its commencement, is so through all its stages. This was the illustration of Dr. H.'s doctrine.

Dr. Donovan stated that he had used *Thuja* with success in a case of *Tenia Capitis*. The eruption was vesicular, matted, and was very much like smallpox, but in the latter disease he preferred *Tart. Emetic.* Dr. Metcalf said that Bönninghausen was the authority for the use of *Thuja* in smallpox—he gave it in a very high attenuation.

Dr. Kinsley, in reply to Dr. Hempel said, that the antecedent fever in all eruptive diseases is so similar, that it could not be distinguished, and the remedy which may be indicated in the fever before the eruption, might not be appropriate in all the stages of the disease. The principle laid down by Dr. Hempel, he thought, was unsound. He, Dr. K., had seen severe fever in cases, and but slight smallpox eruption; on the contrary, he had seen cases in which the fever was slight, and followed by extensive eruption; the antecedent fever, therefore, gives no evidence as to what may be the violence of the disease in its entire course. His experience went to show that the severity of smallpox was in proportion to the extent of the eruption, and as in other diseases, the remedies would vary according to circumstances. Dr. K., in his valuable practical remarks, doubted the doctrine of *specifics* as expressed by Dr. Hempel, and so far as we could judge, we think Dr. H. stood alone in his doctrine.

Dr. L. Hallock inquired if any gentleman had used the *Vaccine* as an internal remedy in smallpox. Dr. Metcalf replied that he had in two cases, but did not perceive any

effect. Dr. Kinsley had administered *Vaccine* in several cases, but the evidence of effect was not clear. Dr. Hallock said he had used the 3d trituration with benefit, he thought.

Dr. Kinsley related the case of a lady, on whom the smallpox eruption appeared two days after giving birth to a child. The child was vaccinated when the nature of the mother's disease was known. The vaccination took, and the child escaped the smallpox.

Dr. Vanderburgh related two cases of *varioloid* in persons who had had the smallpox—they were both pitted.

Dr. Stewart made the important inquiry, at what period of the smallpox are persons most liable to take the disease? This question gave rise to an animated discussion, but the question was far from being satisfactorily settled. All concurred that it was after the appearance of the eruption, and nearly all agreed in the opinion that the greatest liability to take the disease is after the pustules break, and so on until the patient recovered, and his body cleansed.

Dr. Wright, of Williamsburgh, has known persons to take the disease as soon as the eruption appeared.

The monthly meetings of this Academy may be made of great use to the healing art, if each member is more careful in his observations, and will note interesting facts at the bedside of the sick, and report to the Academy. We will endeavor to be at our post at each meeting, and furnish the profession through the columns of this journal with what may seem to us of value. We noticed, with pleasure, a good deal of tact for clinical observations in members of the Academy, whose names are hardly yet known to our school. We hope and believe that this Hahnemann Academy will not exist merely in name—but only a shadow—a thing to be used for the selfish purposes of a few, as is the case with most similar institutions; but that it will be a reality—a school of medical learning—in which each member will feel it his duty to contribute something every month for the advancement of a true healing art.

TO THE FRIENDS OF HOMŒOPATHY.

This number completes the 5th volume of this journal. The 1st number of the 6th vol.

ume will appear on or before the 1st of May next. We shall publish a large edition of the 1st number, and send it as a specimen of the work to the friends of Homœopathy, so far as we have their address. But after that, we must decline sending the journal to any one unless the subscription is paid in advance. Experience has taught us that this is best for all concerned. We will supply lost numbers to subscribers of the previous volumes as far as we can, if, when they remit their subscription for the 6th volume, they will plainly state which numbers they find missing. We have been mortified in several instances in past years, that after we had complied with the request of subscribers, and mailed missing numbers to them, they never reached their destination. The fault is not ours.

NEW PROPOSITION.

As we desire to extend the circulation of this Journal as far as possible, we have concluded to make the following proposition to physicians and the friends of Homœopathy, which we hope will be responded to without delay, viz.:—We will send eight copies to one address for five dollars (\$5); twenty copies for ten dollars (\$10); fifty copies for twenty dollars (\$20), cash in advance.

Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Journal may be had, at \$1 00 each, of Mr. Rademacher & Sheek, Philadelphia, Otis Clapp, Boston; and of the Editor, 762 Broadway, New-York.

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Homœopathic Medical College OF PENNSYLVANIA, Located in Filbert Street, above Eleventh, PHILADELPHIA.

The Lectures of the regular course will commence annually on the first Monday of November, and continue until the first of March ensuing.

Preliminary Lectures will be delivered in the College from the first Monday of October until the commencement of the regular course.

Amount of fees for a full course of Lectures, . \$100 00
Students who have attended two full courses
in other schools, 30 00
Matriculation fee, paid only once 5 00
Practical Anatomy, 10 00
Graduation fee, 30 00

The Commencement will take place early in March.

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